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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *3/17/2004*.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are pending in the application.
　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>17 March 2004</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
　　a)☒ All　b)☐ Some *　c)☐ None of:
　　　　1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
　　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
　　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date *See Continuation Sheet*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____ .

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :see IDS attachments dated 5/16 and 9/18/2007.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
> claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2.   Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite

for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant

regards as the invention.

Re claim 5: the phrase "*the same as control on an output limitation which is performed*

when an image based on image data is to be printed in said image printing apparatus

without the mediacy of said information processing means" renders the claim indefinite.

The Examiner would like clarification on the claim language in order to understand what

exactly the phrase is trying to claim. Is the phrase saying that the output control of the

printing device would be the same when the image data is transmitted back to the

transmitting location as to if the image data was only processed by the printing

apparatus without being transferred to the image processing apparatus? The examiner

will give the claim the broadest reasonable interpretation for examining purposes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Niitsuma '782 (US Pub No 2001/0050782) in view of Maeda '703 (US Pat No 6791703).

Re claim 1: Niitsuma '782 discloses an image printing system formed by connecting,

through a network, a plurality of image printing apparatuses **(i.e. as seen in figure 1, a**

plurality of image printing apparatuses (1 and 2) are connected through a network

(4). There may be a large number of image forming apparatuses compared to a

large number of personal computers (3) that serve as image processing servers

(3); see figs. 1 and 3; paragraphs [0047]-[0062]), each having image reading means

for reading an image from an original to obtain image data **(i.e. in the system, the**

image forming apparatuses have an image reading means (13) for reading a

document and converting it into image data; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0029]-[0031]),

image printing means for printing an image on a sheet on the basis of the image data

(i.e. in the system, a image forming means is used to form or print an image on a

sheet that reflects the image data that is processed; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0029]-

[0031], [0049] and [0055]), and first image processing means for performing image

processing for the image data **(i.e. the image forming apparatus contains an image**

processing means that is used to conduct the image processing on the image

data read from the image reading means; see paragraphs [0028]-[0031]), and an

information processing apparatus having second image processing means for

performing image processing for the image data **(i.e. the image processing**

apparatus, considered as the information processing apparatus, contains a image

processing means that performs image processing on image data transferred

from the image forming apparatus; see paragraphs [0028]-[0031]),

wherein said image printing apparatus further comprises apparatus ID storage

means for storing an apparatus ID which specifies said image printing apparatus **(i.e.**

the address of the image forming apparatus is considered as the apparatus ID. In

each of the apparatuses, the address on the network is previously set, so that the

image forming apparatus can be discriminated on the network from other

apparatuses. In order for the image forming apparatus to memorize this address,

the address has to be stored on the image forming device in order to send this to

other devices on the network; see paragraph [0051], [0058]),

and first image data transmission means for transmitting, to said information

processing apparatus, image data to be output, an apparatus ID stored in said

apparatus ID storage means, and a transfer destination address which is an address of

a remote image printing apparatus to which the image data is to be transferred **(i.e. the**

network connecting means (11) is used to transmit information to the image

processing apparatus that is used to perform image processing on the

transferred image data. The transferred data includes the image data and the

actual apparatus ID that represents the address of the transmitting apparatus.

Also, in the system, the transmitting apparatus can send information from the

image processing apparatus to a different image forming apparatus as stated in

paragraph [0050]. With this feature of Niitsuma '782, the destination address

information has to be sent to the personal computer or server in order to know

**what different location to send the processed image data; see paragraphs [0049]-
[0067]),**

said information processing apparatus further comprises first image data

reception means for receiving image data, an apparatus ID, and a transfer destination

address from said first image data transmission means **(i.e. in the system, when the**

image processing apparatus, considered as the information processing

apparatus, is used to process information, the image data along with the address

information of the transmitting apparatus is sent to the processing device. Also,

when the original sending image forming device sends information to the

personal computer to have a different destination device, it is understood that the

destination address of the other device has to be included in the communication

to the processing server device in order to ensure that the image data is delivered

to the different device; see paragraphs [0049]-[0067]), and second image data

transmission means for transmitting the image data received by said first image data

reception means to the transfer destination address received by said first image data

reception means **(i.e. in the system, when the image data is sent to the image**

processing apparatus for image processing, the image data can be sent to a

different image forming apparatus that originally sent the image information to

the image processing apparatus. Since the image data is sent to another image

forming apparatus that is different from the original apparatus, the feature of

sending the information to the transfer destination address is performed; see

paragraphs [0049]-[0067]),

and said image printing apparatus further comprises image printing of image data

which is transferred from an apparatus as a transfer source other than said image

printing apparatus **(i.e. the system allows for the image data that is processed to be**

sent to the same or another image forming apparatus besides the image forming

apparatus that sent the image data information to be processed. The processed

information can be printed after the image forming apparatuses receive the image

data; see paragraphs [0049]-[0067]), second image data reception means for

receiving image data from said second image data transmission means in said

information processing apparatus **(i.e. in the system, the image data that is**

transferred can be sent to the original transmitting image forming apparatus or

another image forming apparatus from the personal computer that serves as the

image processing server device; see paragraphs [0049]-[0067]).

However, Niitsuma '782 fails to teach second image data transmission means for

transmitting the apparatus ID and said image printing apparatus further comprises

external data output-limitation setting means for setting a limitation associated with

image printing of image data, second image data reception means for receiving an

apparatus ID from said second image data transmission means in said information

processing apparatus, and control means for determining whether or not the apparatus

ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with an apparatus ID

stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and when the apparatus IDs do not coincide

with each other, causing said image printing means to print an image based on the

image data received by said second image data reception means on the basis of a

limitation set by said external data output limitation setting means.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda '703. Maeda '703

discloses second image data transmission means for transmitting the apparatus ID **(i.e.**

in the system of Maeda '703, the client computer (9), which is considered as

having a transmission means, is used to transmits ID information in order to use

the apparatus that is considered as an apparatus ID. The ID information is

transmitted to the printing apparatus using the printing utility; see col. 5, line 60 –

col. 7, line 27) and said image printing apparatus further comprises external data

output-limitation setting means for setting a limitation associated with image printing of

image data **(i.e. in the system, the printer has profiles regarding the users that**

limit the use of the printing apparatus. The manager of the apparatus not only

sets the limitations but can also set the users' passwords to the image forming

apparatus; see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52), second image data reception

means for receiving an apparatus ID from said second image data transmission means

in said information processing apparatus **(i.e. the printing apparatus in the system**

receives the ID information from the client PC, which can be considered as the

information processing apparatus since it processes information; see col. 9, lines

55-67), and control means for determining whether or not the apparatus ID received by

said second image data reception means coincides with an apparatus ID stored in said

apparatus ID storage means **(i.e. in the printing apparatus that receives the ID**

information from the print utility on the client terminal, the apparatus compares

this information to the information registered, or stored, in the printing apparatus in advance. With this function performed, this performs the feature of the control unit; see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52), and when the apparatus IDs do not coincide with each other, causing said image printing means to print an image based on the image data received by said second image data reception means on the basis of a limitation set by said external data output limitation setting means **(i.e. in the system, when a user enters in ID information in order to use the apparatus, the image forming apparatus compares this ID information to the ID information stored in the printing device. If the ID information entered does not match the ID information stored, the system will perform the limitation on the user by not letting them perform the printing feature until the correct ID information is recognized by the printing device as being entered by the user. The combination of the feature of Maeda '703 of limiting the printing of the user that corresponds to an ID to access the apparatus and the sending of an ID from one apparatus to another combined with the features of Niitsuma '782, the above feature is performed; see col. 5, line 60 – col. 7, line 27 and see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52)**.

Therefore, in view of Maeda '703, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to the features of a second image data transmission means for transmitting the apparatus ID and said image printing apparatus further comprises external data output-limitation setting means for setting a limitation associated with image printing of image data, second image data reception means for

receiving an apparatus ID from said second image data transmission means in said

information processing apparatus, and control means for determining whether or not the

apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with an

apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and when the apparatus IDs

do not coincide with each other, causing said image printing means to print an image

based on the image data received by said second image data reception means on the

basis of a limitation set by said external data output limitation setting means in order to

information to identify the sender of a print request and to determine whether the

request is to be accepted (as stated in Maeda '703 col. 7, lines 21-26).

Re claim 2: The teachings of Niitsuma '782 in view of Maeda '703 are disclosed above.

However, Niitsuma '782 fails to teach a system according to claim 1, wherein

said external data output limitation Setting means can set at least two kinds of settings

including "always permitting output operation" and "always inhibiting output operation".

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda '703. Maeda '703

discloses wherein said external data output limitation setting means can set at least two

kinds of settings including "always permitting output operation" and "always inhibiting

output operation" **(i.e. in the system, the limitations set on the users of the printing**

apparatus can be set to "None", which corresponds to "always permitting output

operation" and "Not permitted", which corresponds to "always inhibiting output

operation". The combination of the feature of Maeda '703 of limiting the printing

of the user that corresponds to an ID to access the apparatus combined with the

features of Niitsuma '782, the above feature is performed; see col. 13, line 47 –

col. 14, line 52).

Therefore, in view of Maeda '703, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill at the time the invention was made to have the features of wherein said external

data output limitation Setting means can set at least two kinds of settings including

"always permitting output operation" and "always inhibiting output operation" in order to

information to identify the sender of a print request and to determine whether the

request is to be accepted (as stated in Maeda '703 col. 7, lines 21-26).

Re claim 3: The teachings of Niitsuma '782 in view of Maeda '703 are disclosed above.

However, Niitsuma '782 fails to teach a system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

said external data output limitation setting means comprises limit value setting means

which can set at least "limit addition" and sets a limit value of the "limit addition", and

said control means permits output operation until an output print count reaches the limit

value set by said limit value setting means, and inhibits output operation when the

output print count reaches the limit value.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda '703. Maeda '703

discloses wherein said external data output limitation setting means comprises limit

value setting means which can set at least "limit addition" and sets a limit value of the

"limit addition" **(i.e. in the system, the "Job No" and the "Max jobs" options are able**

to set limits on the amount of jobs that can be printed. The "limit addition" can be considered as both options mentioned above; see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52), and

said control means permits output operation until an output print count reaches the limit value set by said limit value setting means, and inhibits output operation when the output print count reaches the limit value **(i.e. in the system, when the print job count reaches a certain number set in the max jobs count or job number count, the user is notified of this fact and the user is not able to enter in request over this Max job limit. Since the user is not able to enter any more jobs over this max job limit, the system inhibits the output operation on the printing apparatus given from the client terminal. With the combination of the feature of Maeda '703, which will enable the system of Niitsuma '782 to communicate a notification to the user about a print job limit reaching the maximum, the above claim feature is performed; see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52 and col. 16, lines 28-67).**

Therefore, in view of Maeda '703, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the features of wherein said external data output limitation setting means comprises limit value setting means which can set at least "limit addition" and sets a limit value of the "limit addition", and said control means permits output operation until an output print count reaches the limit value set by said limit value setting means, and inhibits output operation when the output print count reaches the limit value in order to set a number of print requests that can be active in a printing apparatus (col. 14, lines 6-45).

Re claim 4: The teachings of Niitsuma '782 in view of Maeda '703 are disclosed above.

Niitsuma '782 discloses a system according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein

said first image data transmission means transmits, to said information

processing apparatus, also information of an operated output operation for image data

transmitted by said first image data transmission means **(i.e. in the system, the first**

copier is able to output information regarding the operated output operation for

image data to the personal computer operating as a server device. Since the

digital copier contains a network device that transmits information regarding the

image data and processing operation to be performed on the data; see

paragraphs [0049]-[0067]),

said first image data reception means also receives the information from said first

image data transmission means **(i.e. the personal computer that performs**

processing on image data receives image data from the first digital copier; see

paragraphs [0049]-[0067]),

said second image data transmission means also transmits the information

received by said first image data reception means to the transfer destination address

received by said first image data reception means **(i.e. the personal computer that**

serves as a second data transmission means is used to transmit information to a

destination such as the original transmitting point or to another image forming

apparatus. The original apparatus that sent the image data information to the

personal computer also sends the transfer destination of the image data to the

personal computer, or server, which again can be the original transmitting point

or another apparatus; see paragraphs [0049]-[0067]),

said second image data reception means receives the information from said

second image data transmission means **(i.e. the apparatus that receives the image**

data after processing at the personal computer, or image server, can be

considered as the second image data reception means. The second image data

reception means can be the original transmitting apparatus or a different copier

in the system; see paragraphs [0049]-[0067]) and

to make said image printing means print an image based on the image data

received by said second image data reception means **(i.e. in the system, once the**

printing apparatus receives the image data from the image processing server, the

image forming apparatus forms an image of that realizes the form of the image

data; see paragraphs [0049]-[0069]).

However, Niitsuma '782 fails to teach wherein said image printing apparatus

further comprises user authentication means for authenticating a user as an operator

and user-specific output limitation setting means for setting an output limitation for each

user, transmits user information of a user who has operated output operation for image

data transmitted, user information and said control means determines whether or not

the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with

an apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and when the apparatus

IDs coincide with each other, performs control on the basis of the limitation set by said

user-specific output limitation setting means.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda '703. Maeda '703

discloses wherein said image printing apparatus further comprises user authentication

means for authenticating a user as an operator **(i.e. in the system, with the use of the**

user name and password, the printer acquires this information in order to

determine if the user is able to perform functions using the printing device. The

printer uses   the user name and password to validate the person as a user of the

printing system, or performs the process of authentication of the user; see col. 7,

lines 21-26 and col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52) and user-specific output limitation

setting means for setting an output limitation for each user **(i.e. in the system, the**

manager of the printing device is used to set the output limitation of each user

that is authorized to use the printing device; see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52),

transmits user information of a user who has operated output operation for image

data transmitted **(i.e. in the system of Maeda, the user name is considered as the**

user information that is output to the printing device. The user name information

along with printing commands of an output operation of image data that is to be

transmitted to the printer from a server device; see col. 7, lines 5-26),

said control means determines whether or not the apparatus ID received by said

second image data reception means coincides with an apparatus ID stored in said

apparatus ID storage means **(i.e. in the system, the printer determines whether or**

not the user name and password entered into the printer device through the client

terminal coincides with the password and user name stored inside the apparatus.

The ID information is considered as the apparatus ID since the parameters of the

ID information are used to identify the information needed for the user to use the

apparatus; see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52), and when the apparatus IDs

coincide with each other, performs control on the basis of the limitation set by said user-

specific output limitation setting means **(i.e. when the ID information coincides with**

the ID information stored in the apparatus, the system performs the output

limitation setup for the corresponding ID information; col. 13, line 47 – col. 14,

line 52).

Therefore, in view of Maeda '703, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill at the time the invention was made to have the features of wherein said image

printing apparatus further comprises user authentication means for authenticating a

user as an operator and user-specific output limitation setting means for setting an

output limitation for each user, transmits user information of a user who has operated

output operation for image data transmitted and said control means determines whether

or not the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides

with an apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and when the

apparatus IDs coincide with each other, performs control on the basis of the limitation

set by said user-specific output limitation setting means in order to have information to

identify the sender of a print request and to determine whether the request is to be

accepted (col. 7, lines 21-26).

Re claim 5: The teachings of Niitsuma '782 in view of Maeda '703 are disclosed above.

Niitsuma '782 discloses a system according to claim 4, wherein the control performed by said control means with respect to an output limitation when the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with the apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means is the same as control on an output limitation which is performed when an image based on image data is to be printed in said image printing apparatus without the mediacy of said information processing means **(i.e. in the system of *1, the digital copier can receive information that is processed from the image server and image data that is processed only on the digital copier itself. In both of these features of the invention, the control of the image forming apparatus output limitation can be the same, which is there may be no limit in printing the image data received; see paragraphs [0049]-[0067])**.

Re claim 6: The teachings of Niitsuma '782 in view of Maeda '703 are disclosed above.

However, Niitsuma '782 fails to teach a system according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies a user who has operated output operation for the image data of corresponding information.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda '703. Maeda '703 discloses wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies a user who has operated output operation for the image data of corresponding information **(i.e. in the system, when the user reaches the maximum number of print requests to be taken by the printing apparatus, the printing apparatus then notifies the user that the maximum job number has been reached. The printing apparatus then receives no more requests for printing that may exceed the max number set for that particular user. Since the print request is rejected once the max job reaches the upper limit count, the image printing of that request is also rejected. With the combination of the feature of Maeda '703, which will enable the system of Niitsuma '782 to communicate a notification to the user, the above claim feature is performed; see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52 and col. 16, lines 28-67)**.

Therefore, in view of Maeda '703, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the features of wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies a user who has operated output operation for the image data of corresponding information in order to notify the user of the maximum reached job count (as stated in Maeda '703 col. 16, lines 48-67).

5.   Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niitsuma '782, as modified by Maeda '703, as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Sesek '864 (US Pub No 2002/0171864).

Re claim 7: The teachings of Niitsuma '782 in view of Maeda '703 are disclosed above.

However, Niitsuma '782 fails to teach a system according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies an administrator of corresponding information.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda '703. Maeda '703 discloses wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies of corresponding information **(i.e. in the system, when the user reaches the maximum number of print requests to be taken by the printing apparatus, the printing apparatus then notifies the user that the maximum job number has been reached. The printing apparatus then receives no more requests for printing that may exceed the max number set for that particular user. Since the print request is rejected once the max job reaches the upper limit count, the image printing of that request is also rejected; see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52 and col. 16, lines 28-67)**.

Therefore, in view of Maeda '703, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of wherein when said control

means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies of corresponding information in order to notify the user of the maximum reached job count (as stated in Maeda '703 col. 16, lines 48-67).

However, the combination of Niitsuma '782 and Maeda '703 fails to teach an administrator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Sesek '864. Sesek '864 discloses an administrator **(i.e. in the system of Sesek '864, the administrator is notified when printing is inhibited in the system. The use of the Sesek '864 reference is to disclose an administrator receiving the notification; see paragraph [0050])**.

Therefore, in view of Sesek '864, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the features of an administrator in order to notify an administrator when a print job is inhibited from being printed (as stated in Sesek '864 paragraph [0050]).

Re claim 8: The teachings of Niitsuma '782, modified by Maeda '703, and further in view of Sesek '864 are disclosed above.

Niitsuma '782 discloses a system according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said control means

performs by e-mail **(i.e. in the system of Niitsuma '782, the communication of the**

devices can be performed using the ftp protocol or e-mail; see paragraph [0063]).

However, Niitsuma '782 fails to teach performs the notification.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda '703. Maeda '703

discloses performs the notification **(i.e. in the system, when the user reaches the**

maximum number of print requests to be taken by the printing apparatus, the

printing apparatus then notifies the user that the maximum job number has been

reached. The printing apparatus then receives no more requests for printing that

may exceed the max number set for that particular user. Since the print request

is rejected once the max job reaches the upper limit count, the image printing of

that request is also rejected. The communication between the devices occur

using ftp protocol or the http protocol. With the combination of the feature of

Maeda '703, which will enable the system of Niitsuma '782 to communicate a

notification to the user, the above claim feature is performed; see col. 6, lines 15-

55, col. 13, line 47 – col. 14, line 52 and col. 16, lines 28-67).

Therefore, in view of Maeda '703, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature performs the notification in

order to notify the user of the maximum reached job count (as stated in Maeda '703 col.

16, lines 48-67).

6.   Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niitsuma

'782, as modified by Maeda '703 and Sesek '864, as applied to claim 8 above, and

further in view of Kuroda '020 (US Pat No 6804020).

Re claim 9: The teachings of Niitsuma '782, modified by Maeda '703, and further in view

of Sesek '864 are disclosed above.

However, Niitsuma '782 fails to teach a system according to any one of claims 1

to 8, wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data

received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies an

image printing apparatus as a transmission source of the image data of corresponding

information, and said image printing apparatus further comprises display means for

displaying information indicating reception of the notification.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda '703. Maeda '703

discloses wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image

data received by said second image data reception means **(i.e. in the system, when**

the profile of a user on a printer is "Not Permitted" or there print requests equal

the "Max jobs" number, the printer does not allow for anymore print request to be

received by the respective user and therefore, does not print any images from the

user thereafter. This performs the feature of rejecting printing that is received

from a transmission device requesting the printing; see col. 13, line 47 – col. 14,

line 52 and col. 16, lines 28-67).

Therefore, in view of Maeda '703, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means in order to have information to determine whether the request is to be accepted for printing (as stated in Maeda '703 col. 7, lines 21-26).

However, the combination of Niitsuma '782 and Maeda '703 fails to teach said control means notifies an image printing apparatus as a transmission source of the image data of corresponding information, and said image printing apparatus further comprises display means for displaying information indicating reception of the notification.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kuroda '020. Kuroda '020 discloses said control means notifies an image printing apparatus as a transmission source of the image data of corresponding information **(i.e. in Kuroda '020, the copying machines are able to send information to other copying machines considered as cooperating devices. These cooperating devices are able to output information that was originally formed at another copier. However, there are times when the cooperating device can not be used for processing and the image data that is desired to be printed by the cooperating device is prevented, or rejected, from being printed. Once this situation occurs, the cooperating device notifies the transmitting copier that there is trouble in the device that is preventing the image data from being processed or printed on the cooperating device; see col. 10, line 53 – col. 12, line 19)**, and said image printing apparatus

further comprises display means for displaying information indicating reception of the

notification **(i.e. the image forming apparatus that is trying to conduct cooperation**

processing is the apparatus that is notified on its display device (221) on the

operation panel showing the current trouble the cooperating apparatus is having

to process, or print, image data sent from the transmitting apparatus. With the

combination of the features of Maeda and Kuroda with the features of *1, the

above feature of the claim is performed; see col. 10, line 53 – col. 12, line 19).

Therefore, in view of Kuroda '020, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill at the time the invention was made to have the features of said control means

notifies an image printing apparatus as a transmission source of the image data of

corresponding information, and said image printing apparatus further comprises display

means for displaying information indicating reception of the notification in order to have

a display section on the transmitting apparatus to display the cause of trouble for the

cooperation for printing or processing image data (as stated in Kuroda '020 col. 12, lines

6-19).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to CHAD DICKERSON whose telephone number is

(571)270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30

Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)-272-7406. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. D./
/Chad Dickerson/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625
March 31, 2008

/Gabriel I Garcia/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 2625